

SM-394  
James S. Burroughs house  
Mechanicsville  
Private

circa 1900

Built around 1900, this house was constructed by local house carpenter James S. Burroughs as his own residence. The subtle detailing and modified Greek cross plan of the James Burroughs house is unique among the residences in Mechanicsville. The Tuscan cornice molding, modified columns, and the Greek fret work on the interior stair point to classical influences, while the shallow hip roof may suggest some consciousness of the Prairie style which was just beginning to be popular at this time. Around 1948 this house was completely remodeled. The exterior was coated with stucco, windows and doors were replaced, and the interior plan was rearranged.

SM-394, James S. Burroughs house  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930

Historic Period Theme: Architecture

Resource Type

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function and Use: Private Residence

Known Design Source: Unknown

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SM-394

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic James S. Burroughs house

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number South side of Old Route 5 ☐ not for publication

city, town Mechanicsville ☐ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county St. Mary's

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Albert R. Mangel and Diane M. Mangel

street & number P.O. Box 827 telephone no.: 301-884-5789

city, town Mechanicsville state and zip code MD 20659

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Clerk of Court liber MRB 176

street & number St. Mary's County Courthouse folio 249

city, town Leonardtown state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. SM-394

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 3

The James S. Burroughs house is located on the south side of Old Route 5 at the end of a dirt road on the south side of the old railroad bed. The house faces north and has a shallow, pyramidal and hipped roof.

Built in the early twentieth century, this two-story, frame structure is sheathed in a sort of stucco made of cement and crushed stone. This stucco exterior is the result of a remodeling conducted in the late 1940s. The foundation consists of molded cement blocks which look like stone. The roof is covered with pressed tin shingles. The Tuscan cornice is boxed. The main block of the building is in the form of a modified Greek cross.

The north (main) elevation has a projecting two-story pavilion as its central bay. On the interior, this pavilion serves as the stairhall. The first floor is pierced by a replacement entrance door and a square window consisting of a central pane bordered by smaller square panes. The second floor is lit by one two-over-two sash window. Flanking this central pavilion on both the east and west sides are two-over-two sash windows on the first and second floors of the house. A porch supported by modified Tuscan columns stretches across the first floor. The roof of this porch is accessible from the second story and is bordered by a metal railing. The first floor of this elevation is sheathed in stucco which has been scored to look like masonry. Orange and ruby pigment has been added to these stucco blocks at random intervals.

The west elevation of the pavilion is blind on the first floor and pierced by a four-light-over-one-panel door on the second floor which provides access to the roof of the first floor porch. The center bay is lit on the first and second floors by one two-over-two sash window. The southern most bay consists of a one-story shed roof addition pierced by a modern door. Above this addition are two two-over-two sash windows which light the main block of the house. A layer of stucco, scored to look like large blocks, covers the west elevation to a line just below the sills of the first floor windows.

The south elevation has a one-story porch supported by square posts which stretches across the central and eastern bays. The central bay is lit by one two-over-two sash window and the eastern bay is a modern entrance door. The western bay, a one-story shed roof addition, is blind. The second floor of the main block is lit by one two-over-two sash window as the western most bay and a modern door as the central bay. This door provides access to the roof of the first floor porch which is bordered by a metal balustrade. The eastern bay is the second floor of a two-story, shed roof addition which is lit by one two-over-two sash window.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. SM-394

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** Unknown **Builder/Architect** James S. Burroughs

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The subtle detailing and modified Greek cross plan of the James Burroughs house is unique among the residences in Mechanicsville. This isn't surprising since it was built by a local house carpenter as his own residence. The Tuscan cornice molding, modified columns, and Greek fret work on the interior stair point to classical influences, while the shallow hip roof suggests some consciousness of the Prairie style which was just beginning to be popular at this time.

James S. Burroughs is remembered as building many of the houses in Mechanicsville. An add in the St. Mary's Beacon of 1901 notes "Hunter and Burroughs, Builders and Contractors, Mechanicsville, MD. Will contract to build houses of all descriptions. All work done with neatness and despatch. Orders addressed to them to the above post office will recieve prompt attention." Burroughs' partner was Charles J. Hunter.

In 1900, Burroughs purchased this property from Zach R. and Nellie Morgan for \$75 and soon afterwards began construction of his own home. Burroughs lived here until his death in the late 1930s. Ernest Leon Hill purchased the house in 1940. According to his son, Mr. Hill remodeled the house around 1948, covering the frame exterior with stucco, replacing windows and doors, adding hardwood floors, and rearranging the interior plan. This construction was done by Horace "Wiggy" Buckler.

Mr. Hill distributed slot machines, juke boxes, pinball machines, and pool tables throughout the county. Nearby, on Route 235, he built the restaurant and lounge "Hill's Club." The Hills also farmed some tobacco on the property, kept cows and pigs, and tended an orchard. The tobacco barn which stands there today was built by the Hill family. Other outbuildings which once stood on the property include a coal house, since a coal stove heated the living room and upstairs of the house, a corn crib, a chicken house, an outhouse, and a machine shed. Despite the existence of an outhouse, the Hills always had indoor plumbing. A woodstove was used in the kitchen.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. ~~SM-394~~

Hill, Sonny. Personal Interview. November 1993

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 4.541 acresQuadrangle name Mechanicsville-- Charlotte HallQuadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

Zone	Easting				Northing				

B 

Zone	Easting				Northing				

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Hughes-Historical Sites Surveyororganization St. Mary's County DPZdate 11/30/93

street &amp; number

telephone 301-475-4662city or town Leonardtownstate MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

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St. Mary's County  
7.1

The east elevation has a two-story, three-sided pavilion as its central bay. This bay consists of a central single pane window flanked by two-over-two sash windows. The second floor is lit by two two-over-two sash windows. To the south of this bay are two two-over-two sash windows on the first and second floors. To the north is one two-over-two sash window on the first and second floors. A layer of stucco, scored to look like large blocks, covers the east elevation to a line just below the sills of the first floor windows.

The interior was gutted in the 1940s. Little of the interior fabric remains except for the stairway, decorated with Greek fret work, in the north pavilion. A molded door frame with corner blocks survives in what is now the kitchen of the house.

There are two outbuildings on the property. To the south of the house stands a large, gable tin roofed barn which was built in the 1940s. To the east of the house stands a smaller board and batten, gable roofed barn. Attached to this smaller barn is a single cell, one-story, gable roof building sheathed in weatherboard siding. This structure is lit by one two-over-two sash window and a partially glazed door. This addition was once a free-standing structure located behind the house.

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St. Mary's County  
8.1

The Burroughs house is located at the end of a long dirt road off of Old Route 5 and is obscured by large leafy trees in the summertime. This road crosses the old railroad bed, which the house faces. Although the 1946 remodeling significantly altered both the exterior and interior of the James S. Burroughs house, it maintains the configuration and details which define its style. This unusual structure is in good condition and adds diversity to the housing stock which comprises the historic village of Mechanicville.



SM-394, James W. Burroughs house  
St. Mary's County  
8.2 Chain of Title

TO: Albert R. Mangel and Diane M. Mangel

FROM: Ernest Leon Hill (aka Leon Hill) and Olive B. Hill, his wife, and Leon Swann Hill, their attorney in Fact under power of attorney.

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber MRB 176, folio 249.

DATE: April 5, 1984.

NOTES: Two parcels are being transferred. 1.) 4.541 acres 2.) 28 foot wide parcel of land from Old State Route 5 to parcel referred to in #1. Price: \$87,500

TO: Ernest Leon Hill and Olive B. Hill, his wife.

FROM: Roger W. Burroughs and Henryetta Brady Burroughs, his wife.

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 12, folio 381.

DATE: December 23, 1940.

NOTES: Transfer of three parcels. 1.) part of "Copsey farm" being five acres more or less and the same as EBA 2/11. 2.) part of "Copsey farm" being a 16 foot wide outlet for the property and the same as EBA 2/133 3.) 12 foot wide parcel which extends south to the railroad and the same as JMM 8/396.

TO: Roger W. Burroughs

FROM: James S. Burroughs and Mary Eva Burroughs

RECORD:

DATE:

NOTES: Both James S. Burroughs and his wife, Mary Eva Burroughs died intestate. For Mary Eva Burroughs, see Estate Docket, Case #1350, Liber ACM 1, folio 78. For James S. Burroughs, see Administration Reference Docket, Case # 1134, Liber PHD 1, folio 342. Since their son, Roger W. Burroughs, was their only heir at law, all property passed to him.

TO: James S. Burroughs

FROM: Zach R. Morgan and Nellie his wife.

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber EBA 2, folio 11.

DATE: December 5, 1900.

NOTES: Transfer of parcel being a part of the Copsey farm and consisting of five acres. Price: \$75.

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St. Mary's  
10.1

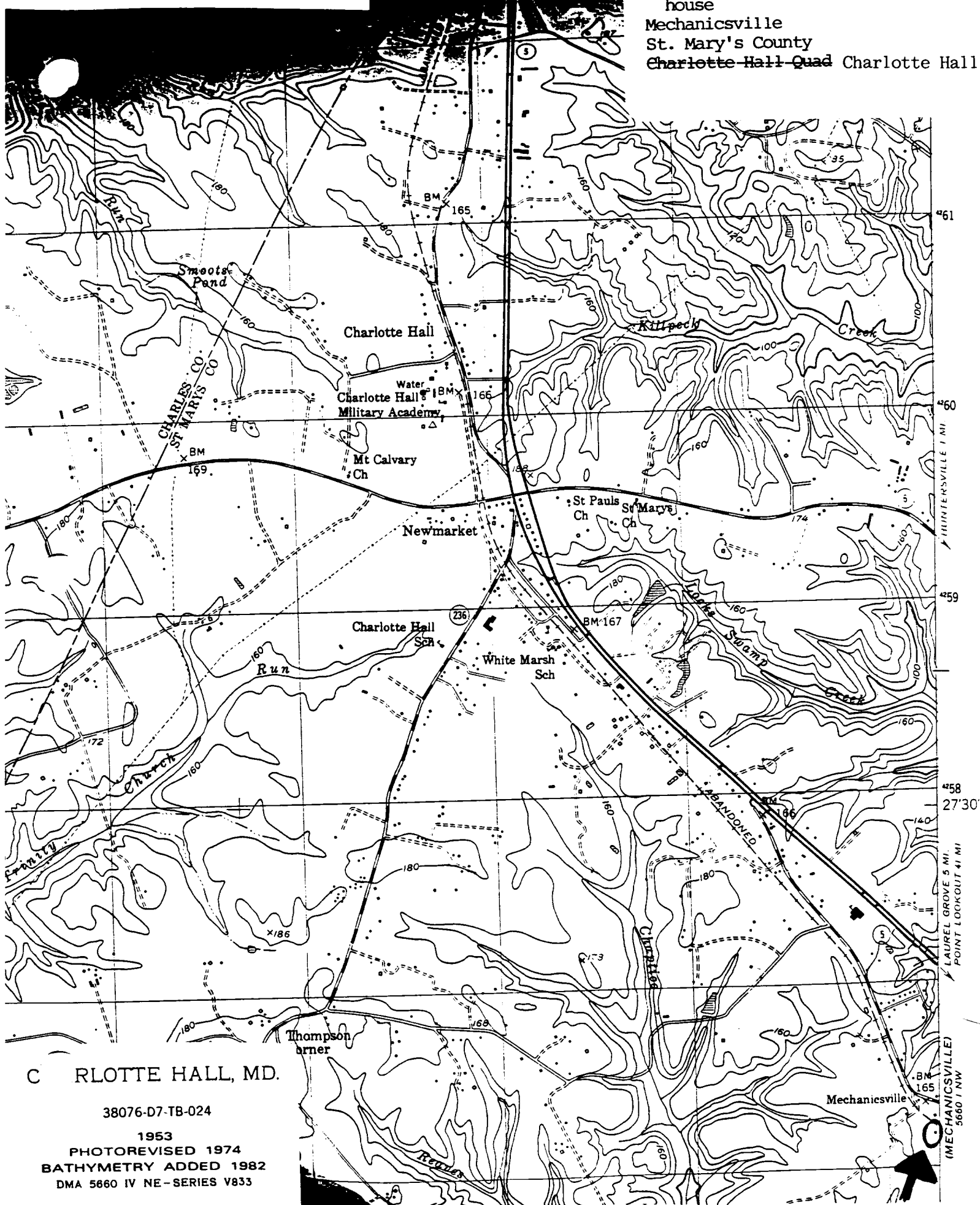
Verbal boundary description and justification:

"Beginning at a point marked by an iron pipe found on the Southwesterly side of the Old Railroad Right of Way, 66 feet, said point being the Northeasterly corner of property now or formerly John B. Swarey as recorded among the Land Records of St. Mary's County, Maryland in Liber No. 14, Folio 64; thence from said point of beginning and running with the dividing line of said Swarey and property herein described S. 61 deg. 59 min. 27 sec. W. a distance of 576.24 feet to a point marked an iron pipe found in the line of property now or formerly Kronlund Holding Company as recorded among the above mentioned Land Records in Liber No. 141, Folio 160; thence running with the dividing line of said Kronlund Company and property herein described N. 06 deg. 44 min. 38 sec. W. a distance of 161.70 feet to a point marked by an iron rod set; thence by the same N. 05 deg. 32 min 18 sec. W. a distance of 462 feet to a point marked by an iron rod set; thence by the same N. 09 deg. 46 min. 35 sec. E. a distance of 109.40 feet to a point marked by an iron rod set on the aforesaid Old Railroad Right of Way; thence with said right of way S. 46 deg. 22 min. 59 sec. E. a distance of 137.72 feet to a point marked by an iron rod set; thence by the same S. 51 deg. 22 min. 59 sec. E. a distance of 581.17 feet to a point at the place of beginning..."

St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber MRB 176, folio 249.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SM-394, James S. Burroughs  
house  
Mechanicsville  
St. Mary's County  
~~Charlotte Hall Quad~~ Charlotte Hall



C RLOTTE HALL, MD.

38076-D7-TB-024

1953  
PHOTOREVISED 1974  
BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982  
DMA 5660 IV NE-SERIES V833







